

ORDINANCE _____

AN ORDINANCE relating to economic development; creating an Economic Development Commission to advise and make recommendations to the Mayor and City Council; and establishing a new Chapter 3.15 of the Seattle Municipal Code .

WHEREAS, in April 2011, the City Council adopted Resolution 31282, which endorsed a program of specific economic development goals and actions to strengthen and grow Seattle's economy; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor presented a Jobs Plan in August, 2010 that laid out strategies for economic development with core principles of economic and environmental sustainability and shared prosperity; and

WHEREAS, the Puget Sound region is struggling to emerge from a severe recession that resulted in the loss of approximately 125,000 jobs at its height; and

WHEREAS, the City of Seattle is home to more than 55,000 businesses employing nearly 500,000 people whose success is essential to the economic health of the region and the state; and

WHEREAS, enhancing communication between business sectors and the City on policy issues was one of the primary economic development goals articulated in Resolution 31282; and

WHEREAS, the economic development actions described in Resolution 31282 included the creation of an Economic Development Commission; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor's Jobs Plan recommended convening an advisory body to provide guidance for the implementation of its strategies and benchmarking requirements; and

WHEREAS, the City seeks to establish a commission that will advise the Mayor and City Council on the development of plans, policies, and regulations to promote sustainable and equitable economic development and job creation in Seattle; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF SEATTLE AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. A new Chapter 3.53 is added to the Seattle Municipal Code, as follows:

Chapter 3.53 – Economic Development Commission

3.53.010 Establishment

1 There is established an Economic Development Commission to advise and make
2 recommendations to the Mayor and City Council on the development of plans, policies,
3 regulations, and strategies regarding fundamental issues that have substantial impact on
4 sustainable and equitable economic development and job creation in the City of Seattle.

5 3.53.020 Membership

6 A. The Commission is comprised of 10 members. Appointments shall be made to ensure
7 that varied economic perspectives are represented, including business size, industry type,
8 organized labor, neighborhood business, minority-owned business, woman-owned business,
9 local economic professionals, and representatives of post-high school educational institutions,.

10 3.15.030 Appointment and term

11 1. All positions are numbered one through 10. Individuals shall be appointed into those
12 numbered positions. Members in odd numbered positions shall be appointed by a majority vote
13 of the Council. Individuals in even numbered positions shall be appointed by the Mayor, subject
14 to confirmation by a majority vote of the Council. All positions shall be filled as soon as
15 practicable after the Council and Mayor have authorized the creation of the Commission.

16 2. For the initial round of appointments all positions will be for one year. After the first
17 year the positions will be staggered: positions one through five will serve one-year terms,
18 positions five through ten will serve two-year terms. After the conclusion of these terms, all
19 subsequent terms of each position shall be for two years. A commission member whose term has
20 expired shall continue to hold office until a successor has been appointed and qualified. No
21 members shall serve more than two consecutive terms. Any vacancy for an unexpired term shall
22 be filled in the same manner as for an original appointment under this section. Staff from the
23 Office of Economic Development may provide appointment recommendations to both the Mayor
24 and City Council.

25 3.53.040 Compensation

1 Members serve without compensation.

2 3.53.050 Duties and functions

3 A. The duties of the Commission include, but are not limited to, the following:

4 1. Provide advice on priorities, policies, and strategies related to the City's basic
5 economic health, local business climate and job creation. This includes review of policy
6 proposals brought forward by the City, as well as ones identified by the Commission.

7 2. Assist the Office of Economic Development in its leadership role in creating
8 the City of Seattle's economic agenda through analysis of timely opportunities and development
9 of targeted areas of focus.

10 3. The Commission shall act in an advisory capacity only.

11 4. The Commission shall meet at a minimum six times a year.

12 3.15.060 Ancillary powers

13 A. The Commission shall have the power to:

14 1. By a majority vote of the Commission, elect one Commission member to be
15 Chairperson for a one-year term, and elect one Vice Chairperson for a one-year term, who shall
16 serve as Chair in absence of the Chairperson.

17 2. Organize itself, establish committees or subcommittees, and delegate duties for
18 the performance of its work; and

19 3. Adopt rules of procedure to accomplish its functions.

20 B. The Office of Economic Development shall provide staff support and meeting
21 facilities for the Commission and maintain its records. The Commission may also receive staff
22 assistance from other City departments.

23 C. Meetings of the Commission shall be open to the public. Meeting notifications,
24 agendas, minutes of proceedings, findings and recommendations, annual reports, and other
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related material shall be available to the public and posted on the Office of Economic Development's website.

3.15.070 Unexcused absences

Any member shall be excused from a meeting if he or she notifies the Chairperson of the member's anticipated absence prior to the start of the meeting. The Commission may recommend that the Mayor or Council remove any member who is absent without excuse from three consecutive Commission meetings. Recommendation for removal of a member requires a majority vote of the Commission's membership. Upon receipt of such recommendation, the Mayor may remove a member appointed by Mayoral appointment and the Council may remove a member appointed by Council appointment. This provision does not limit the reasons for which the Mayor and the Council may exercise their power to remove a person whom they have appointed.

Section 2. This ordinance shall take effect and be in force 30 days after its approval by the Mayor, but if not approved and returned by the Mayor within ten days after presentation, it shall take effect as provided by Seattle Municipal Code Section 1.04.020.

Passed by the City Council the ____ day of _____, 2011, and signed by me in open session in authentication of its passage this ____ day of _____, 2011.

President _____ of the City Council

Approved by me this ____ day of _____, 2011.

Michael McGinn, Mayor

Filed by me this ____ day of _____, 2011.

Monica Martinez Simmons, City Clerk

(Seal)